

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 1, 3, 4, 13-18, 20-22, 29-31, and 34-48 without prejudice or disclaimer, AMEND claims 2, 5, 19, 23, 25, 27, 32, and 33, and ADD new claim 49 in accordance with the following:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) ~~The audio system according to claim 1, wherein said audio apparatus further comprises:~~ An audio system that reproduces contents information as sound in a vehicle, comprising:
  - a portable audio apparatus carried by a passenger of said vehicle; and
  - an audio apparatus mounted in said vehicle,
  - wherein said portable audio apparatus comprises
    - a storage medium for retaining contents information, and
    - a transmission module for transmitting said contents information to said audio apparatus at least by means of radio communication,
    - wherein said audio apparatus comprises
      - a reception module for receiving said contents information from said portable audio apparatus at least by means of radio communication,
      - a control unit for reproducing said contents information received by said reception module and outputting the reproduced information as sound from a speaker mounted in said vehicle,
  - an operation switch that allows the passenger of said vehicle to input an operation of said audio system; and
  - an operation signal transmission module for transmitting an operation signal corresponding to the operation of said operation switch to said portable audio apparatus at least by means of radio communication, and

wherein said portable audio apparatus further comprises a CPU for controlling the own operation of said portable audio apparatus according to said operation signal received from said audio apparatus at least by means of radio communication.

3-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The audio system according to claim 1~~ An audio system that reproduces contents information as sound in a vehicle, comprising:

a portable audio apparatus carried by a passenger of said vehicle; and

an audio apparatus mounted in said vehicle,

wherein said portable audio apparatus comprises

a storage medium for retaining contents information, and

a transmission module for transmitting said contents information to said audio apparatus at least by means of radio communication,

wherein said audio apparatus comprises

a reception module for receiving said contents information from said portable audio apparatus at least by means of radio communication; and

a control unit for reproducing said contents information received by said reception module and outputting the reproduced information as sound from a speaker mounted in said vehicle,

wherein said audio apparatus identifies said portable audio apparatus that exists in a predetermined radio communication area of said audio apparatus and further comprises a system construction unit for constructing a radio communication system made up of the identified portable audio apparatus and said audio apparatus, and

said audio apparatus acquires said contents information from the portable audio apparatus identified by said system construction unit.

6. (Original) The audio system according to claim 5, wherein said audio apparatus further comprises a man-machine interface capable of, when a plurality of contents information pieces is received from a plurality of portable audio apparatuses identified by said system construction unit, instructing simultaneous reproduction of the plurality of contents information pieces,

wherein said control unit, when simultaneous reproduction is instructed by said man-machine interface, outputs at least one contents information piece from among the plurality of contents information pieces whose simultaneous reproduction is instructed from said speaker and at the same time remotely controls said plurality of portable audio apparatuses so that the other contents information pieces are reproduced by at least any one of the plurality of portable audio apparatuses identified by said system construction unit.

7. (Original) The audio system according to claim 5, wherein said reception module can receive contents information from the plurality of portable audio apparatuses identified by said system construction unit,

said audio apparatus further comprises a man-machine interface capable of, when a plurality of contents information pieces is received from the plurality of portable audio apparatuses identified by said system construction unit, setting priority of the plurality of portable audio apparatuses in order to set the order of reproducing those contents information pieces, and

said control unit, when the priority is set by said man-machine interface, sequentially performs control that contents information received from one portable audio apparatus is output as sound from the speaker mounted in said vehicle on said identified plurality of portable audio apparatuses according to said priority.

8. (Original) The audio system according to claim 5, wherein said system construction unit, for the purpose of identifying said portable audio apparatuses detected in said vehicle, which is said predetermined radio communication area, assigns individual identification addresses and constructs said radio communication system with all portable audio apparatuses, which have been assigned identification addresses, and said audio apparatus.

9. (Original) The audio system according to claim 5, wherein said system construction unit transmits a first radio signal with directivity in said vehicle and identifies said portable audio apparatus that exists in said predetermined radio communication area based on a second radio signal received from said portable audio apparatus according to the transmission of the radio signal.

10. (Original) The audio system according to claim 9, wherein said predetermined radio communication area corresponds to a seat position placed in said vehicle.

11. (Original) The audio system according to claim 10, wherein said predetermined radio communication area corresponds to a position of the mount of said portable audio apparatus placed in said vehicle.

12. (Original) The audio system according to claim 9, wherein said system construction unit sends a first radio signal from a radio antenna installed almost in the center of said vehicle.

13-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The audio apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 18~~ An audio apparatus for a vehicle mounted in a vehicle that reproduces contents information as sound in said vehicle, comprising:

a system construction unit for constructing a radio communication system constructed of a portable audio apparatus carried by a passenger of the vehicle and said audio apparatus;

a reception module for receiving said contents information from said portable audio apparatus at least by means of radio communication; and

a control unit for reproducing said contents information received by said reception module and outputting the reproduced information as sound from a speaker mounted in said vehicle,

wherein said system construction unit constructs, when a plurality of said portable audio apparatuses is identified, a radio communication system including the plurality of portable audio apparatuses, and

said control unit, between said plurality of portable audio apparatuses, transfers contents information retained in a first portable audio apparatus to a second portable audio apparatus via radio communication and controls so that the contents information is reproduced as sound in said second portable audio apparatus.

20-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The audio apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 22, wherein~~ An audio apparatus for a vehicle that reproduces contents information as sound in a vehicle comprising:

an audio control unit equipped with a first radio communication apparatus; and  
a plurality of speaker units equipped with a second radio communication apparatus,  
wherein said first and second radio communication apparatuses can carry out radio  
communications based on a predetermined radio communication protocol,  
said plurality of speaker units receives a radio signal sent from the first radio  
communication apparatus of said audio control unit by said second radio communication  
apparatus and reproduces contents information included in the received radio signal according  
to characteristic information individually set for each speaker unit, and

said audio control unit can perform a setting by which said plurality of speaker units is divided into a plurality of groups made up of at least one speaker unit and sends a radio signal including contents information differing among the set plurality of groups.

24. (Original) The audio apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 23, wherein said plurality of speaker units is provided in accordance with the seats in the vehicle, and

said audio control unit sends to a speaker unit corresponding to a specific seat, a radio signal including contents information different from the contents information of the other speaker units.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~The audio apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 22, wherein~~ An audio apparatus for a vehicle that reproduces contents information as sound in a vehicle comprising:

an audio control unit equipped with a first radio communication apparatus; and  
a plurality of speaker units equipped with a second radio communication apparatus,  
wherein said first and second radio communication apparatuses can carry out radio  
communications based on a predetermined radio communication protocol,

said plurality of speaker units receives a radio signal sent from the first radio communication apparatus of said audio control unit by said second radio communication apparatus and reproduces contents information included in the received radio signal according to characteristic information individually set for each speaker unit,

said audio control unit sends a first radio signal including the same contents information to said plurality of speaker units and sends a second radio signal including said characteristic information to each speaker unit individually, and

said plurality of speaker units applies sound field processing based on individual characteristic information included in said second radio signal to the contents information included in said first radio signal and then outputs the contents information as sound.

26. (Original) The audio apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 25, wherein said characteristic information includes information on the locations of all said plurality of speaker units and sound field processing at those locations, and

said plurality of speaker units performs sound field processing taking into account the other units based on said characteristic information prior to outputting sound from the own unit.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~The audio apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 22, wherein~~ An audio apparatus for a vehicle that reproduces contents information as sound in a vehicle comprising:

an audio control unit equipped with a first radio communication apparatus; and  
a plurality of speaker units equipped with a second radio communication apparatus,  
wherein said first and second radio communication apparatuses can carry out radio communications based on a predetermined radio communication protocol,

said plurality of speaker units receives a radio signal sent from the first radio communication apparatus of said audio control unit by said second radio communication apparatus and reproduces contents information included in the received radio signal according to characteristic information individually set for each speaker unit,

said plurality of speaker units is provided in accordance with the seats in said vehicle, and

said audio control unit controls a speaker unit from among said plurality of speaker units that corresponds to a specific seat so as to be able to reproduce sound with sound volume, sound quality or sound field different from the other speaker units.

28. (Original) The audio apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 27, wherein the seats in said vehicle are provided with a detection unit for detecting whether any child seat is attached, and

said audio control unit designates a seat where said detection unit has detected the presence of a child seat as said specific seat and controls the speaker unit corresponding to the seat so as to be able to reproduce sound with sound volume, sound quality or sound field different from the other speaker units.

29-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) ~~The audio apparatus for a vehicle according to claim 22, wherein~~ An audio apparatus for a vehicle that reproduces contents information as sound in a vehicle comprising:

an audio control unit equipped with a first radio communication apparatus; and  
a plurality of speaker units equipped with a second radio communication apparatus,  
wherein said first and second radio communication apparatuses can carry out radio  
communications based on a predetermined radio communication protocol,

said plurality of speaker units receives a radio signal sent from the first radio  
communication apparatus of said audio control unit by said second radio communication  
apparatus and reproduces contents information included in the received radio signal according  
to characteristic information individually set for each speaker unit, and

when a plurality of types of radio signals sent from different sources is received, said plurality of speaker units reproduces contents information included in any one of the radio signals based on preset priority.

33. (Currently Amended) ~~A portable audio apparatus in the for a vehicle audio system according to claim 22~~ apparatus for a vehicle that reproduces contents information as sound in a vehicle, the vehicle apparatus comprising:

an audio control unit equipped with a first radio communication apparatus; and  
a plurality of speaker units equipped with a second radio communication apparatus,  
wherein said first and second radio communication apparatuses can carry out radio  
communications based on a predetermined radio communication protocol,

said plurality of speaker units receives a radio signal sent from the first radio  
communication apparatus of said audio control unit by said second radio communication  
apparatus and reproduces contents information included in the received radio signal according  
to characteristic information individually set for each speaker unit,

said portable audio apparatus comprising ~~that comprises~~ a third radio communication  
apparatus that receives a radio signal sent from the first radio communication apparatus of said  
audio control unit, and

wherein said portable audio apparatus can reproduce sound at least through a  
headphone based on the radio signal received by the third radio communication apparatus.

34-48. (Cancelled)

49. (New) An audio apparatus for a vehicle, mounted in said vehicle, that reproduces  
contents information as sound in said vehicle, comprising:

a system construction unit constructing a radio communication system constructed of a  
portable audio apparatus carried by a passenger of the vehicle and said audio apparatus;

a reception module receiving said contents information from said portable audio  
apparatus at least by radio communication; and

a control unit reproducing said contents information received by said reception module,  
and outputting the reproduced information as sound from a speaker mounted in said vehicle,

wherein said system construction unit constructs the radio communication system at  
predetermined time intervals.